

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) A transparent and impact-resistant polymer material comprising a brittle matrix (I) having a glass transition temperature of greater than 0°C in which is dispersed a block copolymer (II) of formula B-(A)_n, n being between 2 and 20, with a polydispersity of between 1.5 and 3, B being a polymer block with a flexible nature with a glass transition temperature of less than 0°C and with a polydispersity index of less than 2 and A being a polymer block with a stiff nature with a glass transition temperature of greater than 0°C, A being of the same nature as or compatible with the matrix, wherein the block copolymer (II) is obtained controlled radical polymerization in the presence of a nitroxide.
2. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the block copolymer has a polydispersity of between 1.8 and 2.7.
3. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion of brittle matrix is between 0 and 95%.
4. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 3, wherein the proportion of brittle matrix is between 10 and 85%.
5. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the brittle matrix is greater than 50% by weight of at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(methyl methacrylate), polystyrene, poly(vinylidene fluoride), polyesters, polycarbonate, poly(vinyl chloride), polyamide, polyepoxides, polyethylene, polyacrylonitrile and their copolymers.

6. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 1, wherein A represents from 50 to 95% by weight of the total weight of the block copolymer (II).

7. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 6, wherein A represents from 60 to 90% by weight of the total weight of the block copolymer (II).

8. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 1, wherein B is a polyacrylate with a glass transition temperature of less than 0°C.

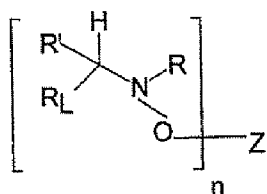
9. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 1, wherein A is a polymethacrylate with a glass transition temperature of greater than 0°C.

10. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the block B exhibits an average mass of greater than 5000 g/mol.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a transparent and impact-resistant polymer material comprising a brittle matrix (I) having a glass transition temperature of greater than 0°C in which is dispersed a block copolymer (II) of formula B-(A)_n, n being between 2 and 20, with a polydispersity of between 1.5 and 3, B being a polymer block with a flexible nature with a glass transition temperature of less than 0°C and with a polydispersity index of less than 2 and A being a polymer block with a stiff nature with a glass transition temperature of greater than 0°C, A being of the same nature as or compatible with the matrix, wherein the block copolymer (II) is obtained by controlled radical polymerization in the presence of a nitroxide, comprising

(1) preparing the first block B by mixing the monomer(s) with an alkoxyamine of formula:



- where R' and R, which are identical or different, optionally connected so as to form a ring, are alkyl groups having between 1 and 40 carbon atoms optionally substituted by hydroxyl, alkoxy or amino groups; - where R_L is a monovalent group with a molar mass of greater than 16 g/mol; and- where Z is a polyvalent radical carrying end functional groups of styol or acryloyl, the other radicals having the same meanings as above,

adding a nitroxide, and

carrying out the polymerization at temperatures ranging from 60 to 250°C, for pressures ranging from 0.100 bar to 80 bar,

(2) diluting the first block B obtained in the mixture of monomers intended to form the block A compatible to the brittle matrix which is desired to see reinforced against impact,

adding between 0 and 100 molar equivalents of a radical polymerization initiator, the choice of this ratio depends on the viscosity/impact-reinforcing compromise which it is desired to have,

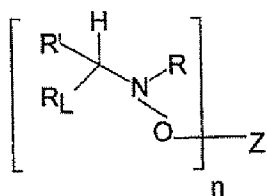
carrying out the polymerization at temperatures ranging from 60 to 250°C, for pressures ranging from 0.100 bar to 80 bar, the conversion of the monomer varies from 10 to 100%, and

separating the polymer obtained from the residual monomers by evaporation under vacuum at temperatures ranging up to 250°C,

(3) mixing the product obtained in step (2) with the brittle matrix which it is desired to see reinforced against impact, optionally in the presence of other additives.

13. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) A process for the preparation of the material of claim 1, comprising

(1) preparing the first block B by mixing the monomer(s) with an alkoxyamine of formula:



- where R' and R, which are identical or different, optionally connected to form a ring, are alkyl groups having between 1 and 40 carbon atoms optionally substituted by hydroxyl, alkoxy or amino groups; - where R_L is a monovalent group with a molar mass of greater than 16 g/mol; and- where Z is a polyvalent radical carrying end functional groups, the other radicals having the same meanings as above,

adding a nitroxide, and

carrying out the polymerization at temperatures ranging from 60 to 250°C, for pressures ranging from 0.100 bar to 80 bar;

(2) diluting the first block B obtained in the mixture of monomers intended to form the block A,

adding between 0 and 100 molar equivalents of a radical polymerization initiator to this mixture, the choice of this ratio depends on the viscosity/impact-reinforcing compromise which it is desired to have, and

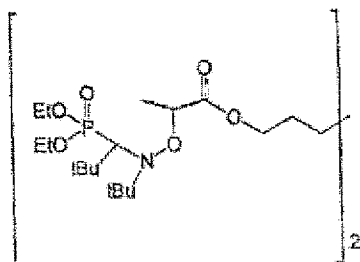
carrying out the polymerization at temperatures ranging from 60 to 250°C, for pressures ranging from 0.100 bar to 80 bar, the conversion of the monomer varies from 10 to 100%, and

separating the polymer obtained from the residual monomers by evaporation under vacuum at temperatures ranging up to 250°C,

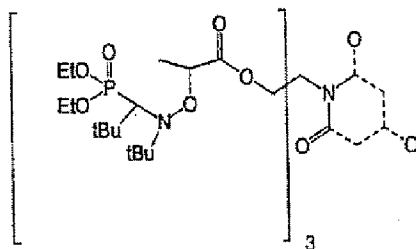
(3) diluting the product obtained step (2) in a mixture of monomers selected from the group consisting of styrene, MMA, epoxides, mixtures of diols and of diacid, or precursors of polyamides' lactam or mixtures, diamine, diacids, and

polymerizing the combination as described step (2).

14. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the alkoxyamine used corresponds to the following formula:



15. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the alkoxyamine used corresponds to the formula:



16. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the polydispersity is between 2 and 2.5.

17. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 34, wherein the average mass is greater than 20,000 g/mol.

18. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 34, wherein the average mass is greater than 60,000 g/mol.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polymerization temperature in step (1) is from 90 to 160°C and the pressure is from 0.5 bar to 10 bar, the polymerization temperature in step (2) is from 90 to 160°C and the pressure is from 0.5 bar to 10

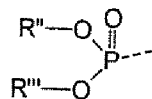
bar, and the evaporation temperature is 200°C.

21. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the polymerization temperature in step (1) is from 90 to 160°C and pressure is from 0.5 bar to 10 bar, the polymerization temperature in step (2) is from 90 to 160°C and pressure is from 0.5 to 10 bar, and the evaporation temperature is 200°C.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein R and R' are tert-butyl groups

25. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 12 wherein R_L is a phosphorus group or a phosphonate group of formula:



- where R'' and R''', which are identical or different, optionally connected so as to form a ring, are alkyl groups having between 1 and 40 carbon atoms optionally substituted by hydroxyl, alkoxy or amino groups.

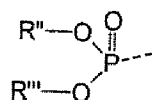
26. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the brittle matrix is selected from the group consisting of PMMA, polyesters of PET or PBT, polystyrene, PVDF, polyamides, polycarbonates and PVC.

27. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the additives include an impact modifier.

28. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein the impact modifier is an

acrylic impact modifier.

29. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein R_L is a phosphorus group or a phosphonate group of formula:



- where R'' and R''' , which are identical or different, optionally connected so as to form a ring, are alkyl groups having between 1 and 40 carbon atoms optionally substituted by hydroxyl, alkoxy or amino groups.

30. (Withdrawn, Previously presented) The process of claim 29, wherein R'' and R''' are ethyl groups.

31. (Previously presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the block copolymer has a polydispersity of between 1.8 and 2.7.

32. (Previously presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the proportion of brittle matrix is between 10 and 85%.

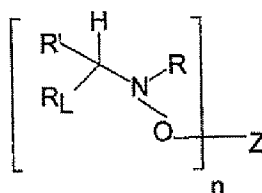
33. (Previously presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the brittle matrix is greater than 50% by weight of at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(methyl methacrylate), polystyrene, poly(vinylidene fluoride), polyesters, polycarbonate, poly(vinyl chloride), polyamide, polyepoxides, polyethylene, polyacrylonitrile and their copolymers.

34. (Previously presented) The process of claim 12, wherein the block B exhibits an average mass of greater than 5000 g/mol.

35. (New) A process for the preparation of a transparent and impact-resistant polymer material

comprising a brittle matrix (I) having a glass transition temperature of greater than 0°C in which is dispersed a block copolymer (II) of formula B-(A)_n, n being between 2 and 20, with a polydispersity of between 1.5 and 3, B being a polymer block with a flexible nature with a glass transition temperature of less than 0°C and with a polydispersity index of less than 2 and A being a polymer block with a stiff nature with a glass transition temperature of greater than 0°C, A being of the same nature as or compatible with the matrix, wherein the block copolymer (II) is obtained by controlled radical polymerization in the presence of a nitroxide, comprising

(1) preparing the first block B by mixing the monomer(s) with an alkoxyamine of formula:



- where R' and R, which are identical or different, optionally connected so as to form a ring, are alkyl groups having between 1 and 40 carbon atoms optionally substituted by hydroxyl, alkoxy or amino groups; - where R_L is a monovalent group with a molar mass of greater than 16 g/mol; and- where Z is a polyvalent radical carrying end functional groups of styol or acryloyl, the other radicals having the same meanings as above,

adding a nitroxide, and

carrying out the polymerization at temperatures ranging from 60 to 250°C, for pressures ranging from 0.100 bar to 80 bar,

(2) diluting the first block B obtained in the mixture of monomers intended to form the block A compatible to the brittle matrix which is desired to see reinforced against impact,

adding between 0 and 100 molar equivalents of a radical polymerization initiator, the choice of this ratio depends on the viscosity/impact-reinforcing compromise which it is desired to have,

carrying out the polymerization at temperatures ranging from 60 to 250°C, for pressures ranging from 0.100 bar to 80 bar, the conversion of the monomer varies from 10 to 100%, and separating the polymer obtained from the residual monomers by evaporation under

vacuum at temperatures ranging up to 250°C,

(3) mixing the product obtained in step (2) with the brittle matrix which it is desired to see reinforced against impact, optionally in the presence of other additives; and

wherein A represents from 50% to 95% by weight of the total weight of the block copolymer (II) and the average molar mass of A is between 10,000 to 10^6 g/mol.